GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1312
ANSWERED ON:23.07.2002
STATE OF SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTE
BASUDEB ACHARIA;SUBODH ROY

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a report issued by the Planning Commission has sounded an alarm about the country's scientific institutions failing to attract adequate manpower as science has few takers among youth nowdays; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto alongwith the role played by the Government to attract the youth in science and create scientific temprament among the masses?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. RITA VERMA)

(a) & (b): The Steering Committee on Science and Technology forthe Tenth Five Year Plan constituted by the Planning Commission has recognized that talented students are generally not prone to opt for a job in science because they do not see it as a rewarding and satisfying career. In India science has made significant contribution both in basic research a s well a s technology development particularly in the areas of atomic energy, space sciences, agriculture, bio-technology, drug and pharmaceuticals, industrial catalysts, food processing, construction materials, leather processing etc.

Government have always placed high emphasis on constantly improving standards of Research and Development and to encourage students to take up science as a career. A number of initiatives have been taken to improve the quality of science education and scientific temper, such as National Science Congress, National Science Olympiad Programme, Kishore Vaigyanik Protsahan Yojna, Swarn Jayanti Fellowship forYoung Scientists, better opportunities for Young Scientist in chosen Areas of Science and Technology for training in leading international laboratories, fast tract programme for young scientists, bio-technology fellowships to young students and scientists, CSIR programme onYouth for Leadership in Science, opportunities to young science students for interaction with Nobel laureates, visiting fellowships, summer schools, Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Fellowship Scheme, Training Programmes to enable students to interact with scientist in national laboratories, etc. The government also supports NGOs underthe 'Improvement of Science Education in Schools' scheme to take up innovative programmes amongst the youth for inculcation of a scientific temper.